



# NO CHILD LEFT BEHIND



## Reading First: over \$4.3 billion to Improve the Reading Skills of Young Children

**Reading First is the academic cornerstone of the bipartisan No Child Left Behind Act.**

- Reading First provides grants to states to help schools and school districts improve children's reading achievement through scientifically proven methods of instruction.
- The program funds professional development, scientifically based instructional programs, materials, and strategies, valid and reliable screening, diagnostic and ongoing classroom assessments, and statewide accountability and leadership structures.
- Reading First is designed to help students in K-3, while Early Reading First helps children in preschool.

**President Bush and Congress are providing record funding for scientifically proven reading programs.**

- Under No Child Left Behind, funding for fiscal years 2002 through 2005 amounts to more than \$4.3 billion for Reading First (\$3.96 billion) and Early Reading First (\$348 million).
- President Bush's proposed budget for FY 2006 includes \$1.15 billion for Reading First and Early Reading First, an \$860 million increase (more than 300 percent) since the President took office.

**Reading First is a prime example of the No Child Left Behind law's emphasis on programs and teaching methods that have been proven to work.**

- Every state grant application was reviewed by a panel made up of more than 70 researchers, experienced reading specialists, and other professionals and had to meet 25 specific criteria.
- All instructional elements funded by the grants – assessments, programs, core and supplemental materials – must reflect scientifically based reading research.
- Students must be making progress before grants will be funded for additional years.
- The emphasis on scientific research prevents the use of unreliable and untested methods that can actually impede academic progress; makes teaching more effective, productive, and efficient; and can be better generalized and replicated in multiple schools.

**Just like every other aspect of No Child Left Behind, states and local communities maintain control.**

- States and local schools have the flexibility to determine how reading programs are selected, as long as the selected program has been scientifically proven to work.
- There is no federally prescribed reading program.
- States are responsible for the quality of the local programs they fund, and for ensuring that these programs rely on scientifically based reading research.

**Reading First is designed to help the children who need it the most.**

- Funding is targeted to districts and schools with the highest percentage or numbers of K-3 students reading below grade level and to districts and schools with large numbers of low-income students.

**Thanks to Reading First, schools and teachers finally have the technical knowledge and the practical training to ensure every child gets the help he or she needs to excel in reading.**

- As a direct result of Reading First grants, nearly 100,000 teachers across the country from kindergarten through grade 3 have been trained to implement high-quality, scientifically based reading programs. Their efforts are reaching more than 1.5 million students

Call 1(888) 814-6252 or visit [www.nclb.gov](http://www.nclb.gov) for more information on No Child Left Behind.